these hospitals have tremendous staff, tremendous doctors, nurses, and all, but, as I said at the beginning, the situation and the picture in the health market has changed.   So what  I'm asking  for in LB 798, the original idea on bringing of the bill was because a constituent asked me to, and I thought  when  they brought it to me and after we reviewed it and had it introduced, and  so  on, it seems that St. Elizabeth needs to have their day in court, so to speak.   But the original bill  simply  made  an exception  for  the  hospital  in a city of the primary class so they could establish a heart program.   Now  St. Elizabeth  has already  begun  the  heart  program, but  they have to do it in increments without the certificate of need process.   So  that's all that my bill does.   I am not going to spend a lot of time on it  because  the  amendments that come are...will...are what you will really want to discuss today, and so I will stop there  and let the amendments be introduced.   Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER  WITHEM:     Thank  you,  Senator  Crosby.    Mr. Clerk, I understand you have amendments.

CLERK:   I do, Mr. President.  The first amendment I have  is  by Senator  Witek.  Senator, I have AM1002.  I have a note you want to withdraw that particular amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM:   It's withdrawn.

CLERK:   The next amendment, Mr. President, Senator Witek, I have AM1353 in  front  of  me,  Senator.    (Printed  separately  and referred to on pages 1433 and 1490.)

SPEAKER WITHEM:   Senator Witek, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR  WITEK:  Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I passed out AM1353 to everyone on the floor, and also a section by section explanation of this  amendment  to  everyone  on  the floor.    I've  also  passed  out  a  letter from the Lieutenant Governor and  a  recent  article  in  the  World-Herald  on  the certificate of need issue.  I'd like to thank Senator Crosby and Senator McKenzie  for  working  together  on this amendment and getting it ready, and working with representatives from a  broad